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Letter dated 1 May 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the communiqué from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation dated 27 April 2006 regarding the skirmish that took place on Wednesday, 26 April 2006 between elements of the Second Commando Battalion of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) and suspected elements of the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) (see annex).

The Mission of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) has dispatched military observers to the site and has opened an inquiry. According to its spokesperson, "Following verification, MONUC believes that reports that Ugandan troops had entered the Democratic Republic of the Congo appear credible"

I would be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as documents of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Atoki **Ileka**
Ambassador

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Annex to the letter dated 1 May 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation has been informed by the special services that a skirmish took place on Wednesday, 26 April 2006 at 17.20 hours between elements of the Second Commando Battalion of the FARDC and men wearing the uniforms of the UPDF.

The confrontation occurred in the vicinity of the localite of Adau, 17 km south-west of Aba, in the Haut-Uele, in Orientale Province.

The attackers, roughly comprising a company, arrived aboard two vehicles mounted with 50 mm cannon, on the pretext of having pursued Ugandan elements of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) onto Congolese territory.

Driven back by soldiers of the FARDC, the attackers, who had lost one of their number during the skirmish, moved off in the direction of Kengezi Base, a Congolese localite situated on the frontier between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Sudan.

It should be noted that for some time there have been reports of a concentration of Ugandan Army forces along the common frontier, intended to augment surveillance on the movements of LRA groups in the Garamba National Park.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation wishes to state the following:

1. If the LRA elements shuttling among Uganda, the Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo constitute a threat to Uganda, they are just as much of a threat to the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

2. Bipartite and regional forums exist to enable our countries, i.e. Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to cooperatively exchange information and intelligence for the purpose of disabling the armed groups that scour the region;

3. The FARDC and MONUC are working to track these armed gangs which spread ruin even among Congolese populations;

4. The Democratic Republic of the Congo will not allow foreign troops to take it upon themselves to cross its borders for any reason whatsoever;

5. While the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation deplores the loss of human life that has occurred, at the same time it cannot tolerate the violation of the borders of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

6. A protest note has been delivered to the Ugandan Embassy at Kinshasa.

Kinshasa, 27 April 2006.

Press and Communication Service.